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IN THE CLAIMS

The status of each claim is provided below.

1. (Currently Amended) An isolated strain of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, which can contains 1% by weight or more of γ -glutamylcysteine and contains 0.004-0.1% by weight of glutathione during its logarithmic growth phase, ~~when the strain is cultured in a medium in which a glutathione synthetase deficient strain of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* shows a slower growth rate than a wild strain~~ in a minimal medium.

2. Canceled.

3. Canceled.

4. (Currently Amended) An isolated strain of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, ~~wherein glutathione synthetase encoded by a glutathione synthetase gene on a chromosome has deletion of a C terminus region from an arginine residue at a position of 370~~ which produces glutathione synthetase of which amino acid residues of the 370th position and thereafter are deleted.

5. (Currently Amended) A yeast ~~Yeast~~ extract produced by culturing the a strain of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* according to claim 1 in a ~~suitable~~ medium and ~~utilizing the obtained cells~~ extracting or digesting the cells of the cultured strain.

6. (Withdrawn) A method for breeding a strain of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* containing γ -glutamylcysteine, comprising the steps of:

constructing recombinant strains of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* in which glutathione synthetase gene is modified by a gene recombination technique and selecting a recombinant strain that contains 0.004-0.1% by weight of glutathione during its logarithmic growth phase when the strain is cultured in a medium in which a glutathione synthetase deficient strain of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* shows a slower growth rate than a wild strain.

7. Canceled.

8. Canceled.

9. (Currently Amended) A Yeast extract produced by culturing the a strain of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* according to claim 4 in a ~~suitable~~ medium and ~~utilizing the~~ obtained cells extracting or digesting the cells of the cultured strain.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENT

Claims 1 and 4 have been amended to specify an “isolated strain.”

Claim 1 has also been amended to specify a “minimal medium.” That amendment is supported by original Claim 3.

The amendment to Claim 4 is also supported by the specification at page 11, lines 18-20.

The amendment to Claims 5 and 9 is supported by the specification at page 16, lines 9-15.

No new matter is believed to have been added to the application by the amendments submitted above.